



Successful Start

Partner Pages

Spring 2006

Department Awarded Federal Grant to Support Child Care Consultation

Healthy Tomorrows Program Awards \$250,000 to Develop the Child Care Health & Mental Health Consultation Network of Rhode Island

The Division of Family Health at the Rhode Island Department of Health was awarded a five-year Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program grant. The grant will support health and mental health consultation for child care centers and family child care homes in RI ([Successful Start: Goal #9](#)).

The Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program is a cooperative agreement between the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Grants awarded through the program support community-based child health projects that improve the health status of mothers, infants, children, and adolescents by increasing their access to health services. The Healthy Tomorrows program received 144 grant applications and awarded nine grants in its 2006 funding cycle.

A needs assessment Start revealed a significant effective child care health consultation services. The Human Services, and develop and implement an care health and mental based on best practices and childhood health, education,



conducted by Successful lack of high-quality, cost-and mental health Department of Health, community partners will integrated model of child health consultation that is current research in early and development.

Grant activities will be integrated into the Child Care Support Network (CCSN) and Dr. Pamela High will serve as the consulting pediatrician for the project. The CCSN Advisory Board will act as the governing body for both CCSN and the Healthy Tomorrows grant. CCSN was recently redesigned to better meet the needs of children, families, and child care providers in Rhode Island. Beginning later this year, CCSN will offer three types of services: Health Consultation and Information, Mental Health Consultation, and On-site Mentoring and Technical Assistance.

For more information on CCSN or Rhode Island's Healthy Tomorrows grant, contact [Melissa Deitrick](#), CCSN Program Manager, at (401) 222-4197.

For more information on the Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program, visit the program's [website](#).

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Introducing...

Gabrielle Obando
RIPIN Parent Consultant to Successful Start



Developmental Screening & Services Pathway to be Piloted in Medical Homes, Communities Across RI

The Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (RI-AAP) and the Rhode Island Department of Health, through Successful Start, are leading an effort to design and implement a system of Developmental Screening & Services for young children in Rhode Island. The goal of the project is to increase the number of children receiving standardized developmental screening and appropriate assessment and intervention services ([Successful Start: Goal #4](#)).

Research shows that developmental screening identifies physical, cognitive, and emotional health issues that may otherwise go undetected, providing the opportunity to intervene to correct problems at the earliest points possible. Yet, many pediatricians report barriers to conducting screening in the context of the Medical Home. In addition, pediatric offices are often not connected to developmental services and supports in their communities.

In July 2005, the RI-AAP and Successful Start received a grant from the Vermont Child Health Improvement Partnership, the Commonwealth Fund, and the National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality to design a community-based developmental services pathway. Since that time, a Steering Team, led by Dr. Robert Burke and Dr. Blythe Berger, has been meeting to develop a model that integrates developmental screening into the Medical Home and other natural settings, such as child care. The Steering Team is also focused on building relationships and developing effective referral mechanisms between families, health care providers, child care providers, and providers of developmental intervention services.

Beginning this Summer, the Developmental Screening & Services Pathway will be piloted in communities throughout the state. The Pediatric Practice Enhancement Project (PPEP) will be a key partner in the pilot phase. PPEP Parent Consultants will assist pediatricians and staff in screening children and connecting families to needed services.

For more information, contact [Blythe Berger](#) at (401) 222-5949.

Did you know...

Nationally, 71% of pediatricians surveyed by the American Academy of Pediatrics report almost always using clinical assessment without an accompanying screening instrument to identify children with delays

Research shows that clinical assessment alone detects less than 30% of children with developmental disabilities, while screening tools have sensitivities ranging from 70% to 90%

Nationally, only 20% to 30% of children with disabilities are identified before school entry

Source: [AAP, Pediatricians' Reported Practices Regarding Developmental Screening](#)

Links to Developmental Screening Resources

[AAP Policy Statement on Developmental Surveillance & Screening of Infants and Young Children](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Developmental Screening Website](#)

[Strategies for Integrating Developmental Services and Promoting Medical Homes](#)

[Orange County Developmental Services Project](#)

Strengthening Families Offers Targeted Services to Child Care Centers in Woonsocket, South County

In 2005 Rhode Island was selected as one of seven states to participate in a national pilot of Strengthening Families Through Early Care and Education. The Strengthening Families model was developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy as a means to reduce child abuse and neglect through primary prevention. Strengthening Families integrates family support into child care centers to build protective factors that promote child and family wellbeing. By partnering with families and providing ongoing and timely support to them, child care centers promote school success, strengthen family relationships, and prevent abuse, neglect, and other poor outcomes ([Successful Start Goal #3](#)).

The RI pilot of Strengthening Families provides two tiers of assistance and support to child care centers in the state. Centers involved in Tier 1 services receive materials, training, and intensive technical assistance to incorporate the Strengthening Families model into their daily practice. Training, materials, and limited technical assistance are offered to sites participating in the Tier 2 level of services.

Strengthening Families Rhode Island is working with the Woonsocket Child Abuse Prevention Taskforce and the Washington County Coalition for Children to target Tier 1 services to child care centers in these two communities and to build connections between child care providers and other

strengthening families

THROUGH EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

community services. Tier 2 services are available to child care centers statewide. For more information on Strengthening Families Rhode Island, contact [Kim Ash](#) at [Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island](#) at (401) 728-7920.

DCYF Convenes Positive Educational Partnership Steering Committee & Early Childhood Workgroup

The Positive Educational Partnership (PEP) initiative is bringing together the state's behavioral health and education investments to build a seamless system of care for children with emotional and behavioral health disorders and to foster environments that promote positive behavior and learning for Rhode Island preschoolers and elementary school children ([Successful Start Goal #11](#)).

Last year the Department of Children, Youth and Families, in partnership with Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities at Rhode Island College and the Department of Education, received a six-year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The grant builds on the Sherlock Center's existing Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) project, a research-based approach to improving school climates and enhancing schools' capacity to educate all students, especially students with challenging behaviors. The PEP project will foster better collaboration between the behavioral health system of care and preschools and schools adopting the PBIS model. Currently, 16 schools in eight communities across the state (including one preschool) are implementing PBIS.

The PEP Steering Committee has been meeting regularly since January to review the project's goals, progress, and provide guidance and direction. The project is working to integrate its early childhood activities with Successful Start and other early childhood programs and services targeting preschools and child care. The project has convened an Early Childhood Subcommittee that is responsible for developing a plan and process for this work. For more information on the Positive Educational Partnership project, contact [Dr. Janet Anderson](#) at DCYF at (401) 528-3756.

News in Brief...

The Family Outreach Program is Rhode Island's statewide home visiting program for newborns and young children at risk for poor developmental outcomes. An evaluation of the program's current design and function was conducted and opportunities to expand its scope were assessed ([Successful Start Goal #3](#)). A new Request for Proposals will be released this Spring. For more information, contact [Theresa Hancock](#) at (401) 222-4308.

The RI Quality Rating System Partnership is developing standards and criteria to assess the quality of child care centers, family child care homes, after school programs, and nursery schools ([Successful Start Goal #6](#)). These standards and criteria will be available for public input at a Forum in September. QRS Implementation will begin in Fall 2007, starting with a pilot. Contact [RI KIDS COUNT](#) at (401) 351-9400 for more information.

A Peer-to-Peer Family Support Workgroup is being convened by RIPIN and Successful Start to bring together agencies offering parent-to-parent models of family support ([Successful Start Goal #7](#)). The first meeting of this group in March provided the opportunity to network and discuss areas of collaboration. For more info, contact [Gabrielle Obando](#) at (401) 222-5923.

The President's New Freedom State Implementation Grant was awarded to the Department of Health to strengthen the community-based systems of care for children and youth with special health care needs by expanding the parents as partners (parent consultant) model ([Successful Start Goal #10](#)). The Department will receive \$300,000 annually for the next three years. For more information, contact [Deborah Garneau](#) at (401) 222-5929.

Upcoming Events...

Masters of Education in Early Childhood Administration & Leadership

The School of Education at Johnson & Wales University is holding information sessions on its new Masters Degree program on May 3rd and June 14th, 5-7pm. Contact [Dr. Bill Strader](#) at (401) 598-1924 for more info.

Education Evolution: A Child's Life. April 23rd and 24th, 6pm, 175 Main Street, Pawtucket. Twenty-five minute documentary film about how inclusion works in an early childhood classroom setting. Contact [Virginia](#) at (401) 727-4144 for more information and to reserve a seat.

RI Association for Infant Mental Health Series in Infant Wellbeing

- April 26th: *Infant Crying and Colic*
- May 23rd: *Sensory and Regulatory Influences on Infant Feeding*

For more info or to register, contact [Claudia Yellin](#) at (401) 831-0660.

Rhode Island Parent Information Network Annual Meeting: June 12th, 6-8pm, 175 Main Street, Pawtucket. Community awards, food, fun, and families! For more information, contact [Virginia](#) at (401) 727-4144.

Successful Start

Steering Committee

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